

Appl.No. 10/617,991
Amendment dated July 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2004

PATENT

Attorney Docket 127698-1000

Remarks

The Examiner objected to the two-paragraph abstract. Applicants have replaced it with a single-paragraph abstract.

The Examiner rejected the claims under sections 112 and 103. Applicants have cancelled the original claims, and have added new claims 15 – 26, which applicants believe should be allowed under both sections 112 and 103. None of the cited references, whether taken singly or in combination, teach the invention as presently claimed.

Part (b)(iii) of claim 15 comes from claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,996, which patent applicants had incorporated fully by reference. Claim 26 comes from claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 5,247,971, which patent applicants had incorporated fully by reference.

Conclusion

If a fee, other than the issue fee, is due (including any fee for an extension of time), please charge this fee to Deposit Account No. 07-0153. In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. I certify that I faxed this correspondence to the USPTO's central facsimile number, 703 872-9306, on July 20, 2004.

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Respectfully submitted,



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